
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 29, 2007
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	Metro
McAllester, Brad	Metro
Power, Joe	Rincon Consultants
Walecka, Carla	Transportation Corridor Agencies
Williams, Leann	Caltrans District 7

SCAG Staff

Acebo, Mervin
Asuncion, John
Del Rosario, Sheryll
Kirchner, Jessica
Nadler, Jonathan

Via Teleconference:

Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Poiriez, Brad	Imperial County Air Pollution
Cacacian, Ben	Ventura County Air Pollution
Lay, Keith	LSA & Associates
Mazur, Jean	FHWA
O'Connor, Karina	ARB
Rossi, Rafael	Caltrans District 11
Wade, Dennis	ARB
Cepeda, Conner	Caltrans District 11

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Brad McAllester, Metro, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 TCWG October 23, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Jean Mazur, FHWA, requested that the minutes reflect that during the RTP discussion FHWA requested that they be provided information regarding the assumptions for the conformity analysis. Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, responded that the TCWG had been sent an e-mail with a link to the SCAG website which provided data and other applicable information on the growth assumptions. Ms. Mazur stated that there is other information she would like to see.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

Naresh Amtaya, SCAG, stated that staff would be asking the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) on December 6th to release the draft RTP for public review and comment. SCAG has held over ten workshops throughout the Region beginning in January of this year. Additionally, over two hundred public outreach meetings have been held based on the adopted public outreach plan.

The RTP is divided into seven chapters. *Chapter I: Overview* lays out the plans, vision, goals, and objectives. *Chapter II: Transportation Planning and Challenges* addresses growth trends and the challenges that these trends may pose. *Chapter III: Transportation Strategy* discusses the region's collective vision for addressing our transportation needs within the

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constraints of committed, available, or reasonably available revenue sources. *Chapter IV: Finance* addresses the cost of the projects and various financial strategies. *Chapter V: Plan Performance* addresses the quantifiable measures used to determine the performance of the Plan. *Chapter VI: Implementation and Monitoring* discusses how the Region hopes to move the Plan forward and monitor the projects. *Chapter VII: Future Connections – The Strategic Plan* addresses issues beyond 2035.

The comment period for the RTP will end on February 18, 2008. Three public hearings will be held in January, which will take place in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside counties. It is anticipated that the RTP will be adopted by the Regional Council in April 2008.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, presented preliminary results of the draft conformity finding. Relative to emissions, Mr. Nadler stated that at this time, there are no AQMPs or SIPs for 8-hour ozone for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin or the Western Mojave Desert Air Basin and, thus, there are no 8-hour ozone transportation emission budgets for these areas. SCAG has appropriately provided transportation modeling data to the ARB which, when incorporated into the SIPs for these areas, should provide adequate emissions budgets.

Karina O'Connor, EPA, described the reasons for the delay in preparing AQMPs and SIPs for these areas. Ms. O'Connor discussed the October 11, 2007 U.S. EPA Memo concerning litigation over the recently published PM2.5 Implementation Rule, which described a different approach for crediting reductions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) for areas upwind of the nonattainment area for Rate of Progress (ROP)/Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) purposes. The PM2.5 Implementation Rule significantly modified the policy regarding which outside NOx and VOC emissions are eligible to be credited towards a nonattainment area's RFP requirement. Subsequently, EPA has requested for a partial voluntary remand of the Ozone Phase 2 Rule, which covers, Reasonably Available Control Technology, Reasonable Further Progress, attainment demonstrations; and 8-hr New Source Review. The Court has not made a decision on this request. Currently, EPA plans to propose and finalize rulemaking shortly to address adoption of an alternative approach to crediting reductions from outside the nonattainment area.

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The EPA policy means that in the SCAG region, Ventura, Western Mojave, and Coachella Valley, which are impacted with emissions from the South Coast Air Basin, must demonstrate RFP without taking credit reductions from South Coast.

Until the rulemaking is completed, States are advised not to approve ozone ROP/RFP State Implementation Plans (SIPs) that have obtained VOC or NOx reductions from outside nonattainment areas. Dennis Wade, ARB, stated that to meet EPA's requirements, ARB will prepare early progress plans for these areas which will demonstrate progress from the base year to the attainment date originally determined for these 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. ARB is anticipating hosting the early progress plans online in December for a 30-day public comment period for a January 24th Board hearing.

Mr. Nadler stated that the regional emissions analyses include the Compass Blueprint 2% Growth Scenario, which takes effect beginning 2015. Mr. Nadler also stated that the preliminary draft analysis was performed without the benefit of the proposed High Speed Rail Transit (HSRT) projects. If these projects are approved by the Regional Council as part of the 2008 RTP, the formal conformity analysis will include these projects as appropriate.

There was also discussion on the timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG, discussed examples of questionable TCM projects. One example was LAOD287, City of Montebello. This involved a project which was predominantly replacement buses with a small percentage of expansion buses as part of the purchase. By definition, bus replacement projects are not considered TCMs. Staff was unsure such a project would qualify as a TCM. Staff requested direction from the TCWG and recommended that replacement and expansion projects be characterized by CTCs as separate projects.

Ms. Del Rosario also discussed another example of a questionable project. LAE2932, City of Carson, concerned constructing a pedestrian bridge to provide safe access over the Dominguez Channel. Staff questioned whether this provided any transportation benefits or was a safety project in nature.

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Mike Brady, Caltrans, *recommended* that this project was a TCM because it provided a non-motorized benefit as it would induce people to walk. Staff will consider the project as a TCM.

Deleted: determined

4.2 AQMP/SIP

Item 4.2 was taken up earlier in Item 4.1.

4.3 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, stated that Amendment #10 has received State approval and staff anticipates Federal approval this week. Staff is working on posting the next RTIP amendment. Lastly, submittals for the 2008 RTIP are due to SCAG on December 3rd.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, included that as part of draft Amendment #12, staff has done the required conformity analysis for the amendment, which will be posted on SCAG's website next week. The analysis was a result of three non-exempt projects in the South Coast Air Basin.

4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

1) LA000344 - Bridge overpass improvement, Highway 101 interchange at Reyes Adobe Road.

Not a POAQC.

2) SBD49750 – Widen the existing ramps and construct auxiliary lanes on I-10.

Not a POAQC.

3) RIV070710 – Intersection signalization, Bundy Canyon Road at the Farm Road.

Not a POAQC.

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4) LALS09 – Intersection ~~channelization~~ and intersection signalization on SR-30, Baseline Rd. and Fruit Street Intersection.

Deleted: canalization

Not a POAQC.

4.5 Projects Requiring Follow-Up

EA No. 08-924850 – Mission Boulevard Widening:

Mike Brady, Caltrans, and Karina O'Connor, EPA agreed that this was not a POAQC. However, Jean Mazur, FHWA, needed additional review time. Staff agreed to engage in a virtual review of the project in order to finalize the determination.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

None

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Brad McAllester adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on January 22, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles. Due to the holidays, the December meeting will be cancelled.